

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A process for coating a perforated substrate with a hydrogel gel without substantial occlusion of the perforations for use as a wound dressing, which process comprises:

(i) forming a layer of a liquid pregel mixture, comprising one or more monomers, on a web coated with a coating having a surface energy less than the surface energy of the liquid pregel mixture wherein the web comprises paper, polyester, polyolefin or any combination thereof and/or the coating of the web comprises silicone, polyethylene, polyvinyl fluoride, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or any mixture or combination thereof;

(ii) contacting the perforated substrate with the liquid pregel mixture to provide an assembly of the perforated substrate in contact with the liquid pregel mixture and the liquid pregel mixture in contact with the web; and

(iii) curing the liquid pregel mixture in the said assembly to form the said hydrogel and

(iv) removing the web from the said assembly after the said curing;

wherein the liquid pregel mixture reticulates along the perforated substrate so that the perforations become free of the pregel because of the difference in surface energy between the pregel and the web and after removal of the web from the assembly after the said curing the hydrogel coats the perforated substrate without substantial occlusion of the perforations.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the layer of the liquid pregel mixture is formed by extrusion of the liquid pregel mixture onto the web.

3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the contacting of the perforated substrate with the liquid pregel mixture is achieved by applying the substrate to the pregel mixture on the web.

4. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 3, wherein the weight of liquid pregel mixture on the web is between about 0.01 to about 3 kg/m².

5. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 1, wherein at least some of the curing takes place while the liquid pregel mixture is in contact with both the perforated substrate and the web.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (ORIGINAL) A process according claim 1, wherein the perforated substrate is planar, having first and second major faces, and the process applies the gel to at least a portion of at least one major face of the substrate.

10. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 9, wherein the planar perforated substrate comprises woven or non-woven fibers of cotton, rayon, polyester, polyamide, polypropylene, wool or any mixture or combination thereof.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the one or more monomers comprise at least one acrylate based monomer.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the liquid pregel mixture includes one or more crosslinking agents for the monomer(s).

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the liquid pregel mixture is an aqueous mixture, optionally including also at least one plasticising agent other than water.

14. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 13, wherein the liquid pregel mixture includes from about 3% to about 40% by weight of water.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the curing is performed by heat, ultra-violet irradiation, electron beam irradiation or any combination thereof.

16. (CANCELED)

17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the gel is formed by polymerization of one of more monomers, optionally in the presence of one or more crosslinking agents for the monomer(s).

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 1, wherein only one side of the substrate is coated by the gel.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the gel coat is protected by a contacting release sheet.

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A perforated wound dressing comprising a gel-coated, perforated substrate according to claim 19.

21. (CANCELED)

22. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 18, wherein the gel coat is protected by a contacting release sheet.

23. (CANCELED)

24. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 2, wherein the contacting of the perforated substrate with the liquid pregel mixture is achieved by applying the substrate to the pregel mixture on the web.

25. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 24, wherein the weight of liquid pregel mixture on the web is between about 0.01 to about 3 kg/m².

26. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 25, wherein at least some of the curing takes place while the liquid pregel mixture is in contact with both the perforated substrate and the web.

27. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 26, wherein at least some of the curing takes place while the liquid pregel mixture is in contact with the perforated substrate after removal of the web.

28. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 27, wherein the web comprises paper, polyester, polyolefin or any combination thereof.

29. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A process according to claim 28, wherein the coating of the web comprises silicone, polyethylene, polyvinyl fluoride, polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) or any mixture or combination thereof.

30. (ORIGINAL) A process according claim 29, wherein the perforated substrate is planar, having first and second major faces, and the process applies the gel to at least a portion of at least one major face of the substrate.

31. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 30, wherein the planar perforated substrate comprises woven or non-woven fibers of cotton, rayon, polyester, polyamide, polypropylene, wool or any mixture or combination thereof.

32. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 31, wherein the one or more monomers comprise at least one acrylate based monomer.

33. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 32, wherein the liquid pregel mixture includes one or more crosslinking agents for the monomer(s).

34. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 33, wherein the liquid pregel mixture is an aqueous mixture, optionally including also at least one plasticising agent other than water.

35. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 34, wherein the liquid pregel mixture includes from about 3% to about 40% by weight of water.

36. (ORIGINAL) A process according to claim 35, wherein the curing is performed by heat, ultra-violet irradiation, electron beam irradiation or any combination thereof.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A perforated wound dressing obtained by a process according to claim 36.

38. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A perforated wound dressing, wherein the perforated wound dressing contains a substrate coated with a cured hydrogel formed by polymerization of one or more monomers, ~~of one or more monomers~~, optionally in the presence of one or more crosslinking agents for the monomer(s), the perforations of the substrate being substantially unoccluded by the hydrophilic gel and the coated substrate being obtained ~~obtainable~~ by a process according to claim 1-37.

39. (CANCELED)

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A gel-coated, perforated substrate according to claim 38, wherein the gel coat is protected by a contacting release sheet.

41. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A perforated wound dressing comprising a gel-coated, perforated substrate according to claim 40.

42. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A perforated wound dressing comprising a planar substrate coated with a cured hydrogel formed by polymerization of one or more monomers, ~~of one or more monomers~~, optionally in the presence of one or more crosslinking agents for the monomer(s), wherein the perforations of the substrate are substantially unoccluded by the

hydrophilic gel and wherein one side of the substrate is coated by the gel, and the coated substrate is obtained by a process according to claim 1.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The perforated wound dressing of claim 42, wherein the gel coat is protected by a contacting release sheet.

44. (CANCELED)

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The process according to claim 18, wherein the perforations are at least about 90% unoccluded.